

CHEYENNE, WYO.
WYOMING STATE
TRIBUNE

25X1A

Birch Society Is Growing in Wyoming

CODY, Wyo. (UPI)—The John Birch Society is growing in Wyoming, according to Burton Whitlock, president of the Cody chapter of the society.

Whitlock said he did not know how many chapters have been formed in the state, but he said "I do know that we are growing all the time."

Whitlock said the society's objectives were "less government, more individual responsibility, and a better world."

He said current criticism of the society was a "smear campaign" which had resulted in harassment and defamation of society members in Cody.

He said the society would welcome a congressional investigation, a move which several members of congress have requested.

"Each month we receive a bulletin and are asked to do certain things, providing such requests do not violate our convictions," Whitlock said. "We are also asked to read one book each month. In effect, we are asked to arm ourselves with facts and knowledge about the communist conspiracy. Knowledge is the ammunition of this fight."

The society has been criticized for its campaign to impeach Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren and for statements by its founder, Robert Welch of Belmont, Mass., that former president Eisenhower, the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Central Intelligence Agency Chief Allen W. Dulles were communists.

Whitlock said the smear campaign was rather amusing—at the time. "I only hope that a bona fide investigation will be

conducted. The society has nothing to hide. Its objectives are clear-cut and definite.

"How can any organization be classified as secret or semi-secret when anyone may purchase the blue book for \$2 or subscribe to American Opinion," Whitlock said.

Whitlock said there also was a local smear campaign against the Cody chapter.

"Presumably intelligent persons have abused the local Cody members of the society with sneaking references to 'cell' and 'red smoke screen' and are presumably behind a smear campaign to scare interested persons away from the society with intimidation and threatened economic reprisals," Whitlock said.

"What is happening now with respect to the John Birch Society is remarkably similar to past developments in other places. We might refer to it as a crucifixion of patriots," Whitlock said.